

Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Friday, September 11, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Webex

In attendance: Paul Berry (Chair), Karina Kline-Gabel (Vice Chair), C. Alexander Guzmán (Secretary), Cecilia Barbosa, Aida Pacheco, Gloria Maria Peña Rockhold, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Cecilia Williams, Sergio Rimola, Juan Espinoza, Carmen Romero, Damien Cabezas, Melody Gonzales, Manuel Leiva, Diana Brown, Rodrigo Velasquez, Walewska Watkins

Paul Berry, Chair

Karina Kline-Gabel, Vice Chair

Alexander Guzmán, Secretary

Aida Pacheco

Carmen Romero

Cecilia Barbosa

Cecilia Williams

Diana Brown

Damien Cabezas

Edgar Aranda

Eduardo Zelaya

Diana Patterson

Gloria Peña Rockhold

Lyons Sanchezconcha

Juan Espinoza

Manuel E. Leiva

Melody Gonzales

Sergio Rimola

Joshua DeSilva

Walewska M. Watkins

Not in attendance: Eugene Chigna, Jorge Yinat, Edgar Aranda, Manuel Leiva

Staff & Counsel: Maribel Castañeda, Danielle Campbell, Traci DeShazor, Kelly Thomasson

Call to Order 9:30 AM

Paul Berry called the meeting to order

Carmen Romero Sec

Acknowledged work of the committee chairs. Welcomed new members to the Board.

Today, we will be discussing a number of important items. Yesterday, Board leadership met with the Governor. Rest of the day will

Motion: Cartmenl motions to adopt the May minutes. Karina seconded. All members present were in favor, none against, and no abstentions.

Paul Berry, Chair Y

Karina Kline-Gabel, Vice Chair Y

Alexander Guzmán, Secretary Y

Aida Pacheco Y

Carmen Romero Y

Cecilia Barbosa Y

Cecilia Williams Y

Diana Brown

Damien Cabezas Y

Edgar Aranda

Eduardo Zelaya Y

Diana Patterson Y

Gloria Peña Rockhold

Lyons Sanchezconcha Y

Juan Espinoza Y

Manuel E. Leiva Y

Melody Gonzales Y

Sergio Rimola Y

Joshua DeSilva Y

Walewska M. Watkins Y

Rodrigo Velasquez Y

Ayes: Paul Berry, Karina Kline-Gabel, C. Alexander Guzmán, J. Michael Martinez de Andino, Cecilia Barbosa, Aida Pacheco, Gloria Maria Peña Rockhold, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Sergio Rimola, Juan Espinoza, Carmen Romero, Melody Gonzales, Manuel Leiva, Diana Brown, Rodrigo Velasquez, Walewska Watkins

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passes

Motion: Rodrigo Velas motions to approve the meeting agenda. Cecilia seconded.

Paul Berry, Chair Y

Karina Kline-Gabel, Vice Chair Y

Alexander Guzmán, Secretary Y

Aida Pacheco Y

Carmen Romero Y

Cecilia Barbosa Y

Cecilia Williams Y

Diana Brown

Damien Cabezas Y

Edgar Aranda

Eduardo Zelaya Y

Diana Patterson Y

Gloria Peña Rockhold

Lyons Sanchezconcha Y

Juan Espinoza Y

Manuel E. Leiva Y

Melody Gonzales Y

Sergio Rimola Y

Joshua DeSilva Y

Walewska M. Watkins Y

Rodrigo Velasquez Y

Cecilia Barbosa, Aida Pacheco, Gloria Maria Peña Rockhold, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Cecilia Williams, Sergio Rimola, Juan Espinoza, Carmen Romero, Melody Gonzales, Manuel Leiva, Diana Brown, Rodrigo Velasquez, Walewska Watkins

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passes

Danielle discussed housekeeping matters

Public Comment 9:52 AM

No public comment

Chair's report (Paul Berry) 9:53 AM

Focus on the annual report and public policy

Administrative Report (Traci DeShazor) 9:55 AM

Thanks the Board for engagement and support of the Administration during this time.

Vacancy for the Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration

Email board related correspondence to VLAB@governor.virginia.gov

Website issues with posting meeting

Current agenda and previous minutes

Social media—better support the Board with social media and outreach

New Board Members

Outgoing Board Members

Continue working on Standard Operating Procedures for the Board

Committee Sign Ups—updating committee rosters

Committee Meetings—more organization in scheduling committee meetings

Board Matrix Verification, including country of origin

Latino Outreach Update (Maribel Castañeda) 10:05 AM

For the new members unfamiliar with my role – I serve as the Hispanic/Latino/Latinx Outreach Director. I connect community organizations and businesses with our cabinet members and agencies. I connect constituents with resources and services. I send weekly updates to Latinx distribution list – updates from the administration and bilingual resources. Our weekly emails have gotten a new look through Constant Contact. Since some of you are new members, let me know what e-mail I can use to add to my list. I know some of you had more of your work e-mails so let me know if there are others I can utilize. You can send me an e-mail but I'll also be following up. I also proactively identify community events/meetings for the Governor/administration to attend/support in person. I'm always on city and county websites looking at what events are happening for the Latino community. I also ask you to reach out if you have any opportunities for us to engage with. Internally, we determine who would be the best person to attend. In addition, I collaborate with all of our Secretariats and Communications team on press releases, proclamations, and key announcements and information on initiatives. It has been an incredible honor to serve my Commonwealth in this capacity.

While my role is supportive, I acknowledge that in public administration – roles have to set expectations for those they serve. Unfortunately, I am not in charge of creating policy nor am I a spokesperson for the administration. I am more than happy to connect you to the proper staff members who can help with any concerns or requests. Additionally, our Communications team also handles any media requests and internally, we discuss who might be the best person to do webinars, Facebook lives, etc. And while I used to support VLAB as their staff liaison, I am no longer that point person for board business. I always get looped in when I can push events out that you are organizing. It's important to set these clear guidelines and also help you see my role in supporting your efforts.

For my outreach report, I want to expand on a few events and engagements we've had but also talk about Hispanic Heritage month that is coming up.

On events:

- On August 23rd – we had a webinar on the COVIDWISE Exposure Notifications app for the Hispanic/Latino/Latinx community – it was a great conversation targeted on our

community's concerns. We had an overview of the app and the marketing plan that is rolling out to focus on social media advertisement, bilingual information, etc. Some key takeaways from this event is that it does not collect any data at all – I acknowledge that our community has a distrust in government but it is not collecting any cell phone data or contact information. As someone who also hates signing her life away to technology companies who then sell your data – this app does not do that. It is also available in whatever language your phone is set to. If it is in Spanish, the app will be in Spanish. Etc.

- The following evening on August 24th – there was a panel discussion in partnership with VDOE, PTA of Virginia, and VLAB. It was a virtual town hall discussion about the community of support and services available to help Virginia's Latinx community prepare for the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and upcoming school year. The event was in English and Spanish.
- An upcoming event is our Webinar: 2020 Census: What's at Stake for Hispanic/Latino/x Virginians – I'll drop the link below. We'll be joined by Armando Cruz-Martinez, Mid-Atlantic Regional Census Campaign Manager, NALEO Educational Fund. Please share out! This is our last opportunity to share the importance of the Latino community being counted for the 2020 census.
- An upcoming event is the virtual campus event with NextGen to discuss why the Latinx vote is so important. VLAB was invited to join as a guest speaker so I'll let Paul discuss with the Civic Engagement committee on who might be best. The date is set for September 22, 2020 at 5pm and a flyer will be released very soon.

On specific engagement:

- Continue to post information on Virginia Latino Advisory Board's Facebook.
- Have joined calls regarding Latino and immigrant community concerns with community organizations.
 - On July 23rd, Paul organized a meeting with Northern Virginia leaders and Fairfax Board of Supervisor and Chairman Jeffrey McKay – it was an opportunity to discuss on a more locality level efforts that are supporting the Latino community through Covid-19.
 - On August 28th, the Governor's Office organized a Hispanic/Latino/x Leaders COVID-19 Update and Discussion that any of you attended to continue the dialogue of resources and opportunities to engage. We know Latinos have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This was an opportunity to address concerns and
 - I've also had a number of one on one conversations with leaders in Virginia Beach, Winchester, Richmond, and Harrisonburg.
- On July 27th, I also joined my fellow Outreach Directors and we volunteered at Diversity Richmond food drive in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Diversity Richmond supports the LGBTQ+ community in Central Virginia through programming and events. Last year, they launched their Viva RVA! Campaign and Event that celebrated the Hispanic/Latino/Latinx LGBTQ+ community. Diversity Richmond felt the need to have a food drive for the community. We volunteered the day before putting food bags together. There were culturally appropriate foods and fresh vegetables and fruit. It was a true honor to support the community during this time.
- We also had a call with 2-1-1 joined by board members Aida Pacheco and Cecilia Barbosa. A follow-up to an original conversation benefit to partnering with local Latinx communities to help enhance 2-1-1 and make it more accessible. After reading the annual report, I'm happy to see recommendations for 2-1-1 included.

- My focus over the next month and a few days will be Hispanic Heritage Month.
 - A press release and proclamation will be released on September 15th. The proclamation will be in English and Spanish.
 - We're also having the First Lady of Virginia and Secretary of Education do book readings specific from Latino authors.
 - Just yesterday, we received the green light to organize a panel to highlight our Hispanic/Latino/x state employees. We'll be identifying 4-5 employees who will discuss their backgrounds and their experience working in state government. We'll be sure to share this event with you and also record it so we can share with our Latino students.
 - We'll also have a panel on Latinos in Board Service Panel hosted by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The idea is identify 4 panel speakers of Latino descent who are currently serving on boards and commissions. More information to come but we would love VLAB's partnership and support on this event.
 - Lastly, we're also putting together a Governor Northam's Latinx Virtual Forum Series. As a follow-up to the Latinx Summit last year, we want
 - to do something for late October to early November. We're establishing a small organizing committee to think through five pre-recorded forums for the community. This series will also be in partnership with VLAB and we would love to have someone join our organizing committee so I'll follow-up with Karina as the Chair of the Civic Engagement committee on who would be best to support. We'll continue to engage with the board as we finalize flyers, speakers, etc.

Given my dual role – I also wanted to take a moment to talk about board appointments

- I just want to say that I made sure to give each outgoing member a call. While sad to leave, we'll continue to keep them engaged as members of the communities. I'll also keep an eye out for additional opportunities they might be able to serve on.
- I also want to thank a number of you who made recommendations for VLAB. It's always a challenge to narrow down so many interested in serving. Please know that we will also continue to keep your recommendations on file and will keep an eye out for additional opportunities. One of my favorite examples of this is Cristina Ramirez – a recommendation that came from Cecilia Barbosa – Cecilia recommended her for the Library Board as she's a manager at a library. After taking a look at her background, we felt she would be an incredible candidate for the Science Museum of Virginia. On her resume, she had noted she had volunteered there in years past too. After a quick call with her on the opportunity, she enthusiastically agreed to serve and just last Friday, she was reappointed for a five year term. So you see, we truly value your recommendations and will continue to keep them in mind.
- Since our last meeting on July 10, we have had 5 Latinos apply. In total 44 since the beginning of 2020. As members of your communities, Secretary Thomasson and I are brainstorming a challenge for all of the advisory boards to help us identify additional candidates for board appointments, more details to come.

Overall we continue to support messaging around the Census in its last weeks and resources for the Latino community in response to the COVID-19. I am also focusing on exciting events for Hispanic Heritage Month.

- Maribel provided a synopsis of her roles and responsibilities as the Director of Latino Outreach
- No longer the point-person for Board business
- Events since last meeting
 - COVIDWISE app webinar for Latino community. The app is available in the same language as your phone
 - Virtual Town Hall re: services available for Latino communities
 - Census 2020 outreach—event to Sept 24
 - Virtual campus event with NextGen
 - August 28 call with Governor and Latino Leaders regarding impacts of COVID-19
- Melody has joined in on some of the Health Equity Work Group meetings. Has not noticed Latinos among consultants
- Proclamation to be released in English and Spanish for Hispanic Heritage Month
- First Lady of VA and Sec Qarni doing book readings from Latino authors
- Greenlight to organize panel of Latino employees to discuss their experiences working in state gov't
- Panel on Latino Board Service
- Putting together Gov's Latinx Virtual Forum series
- Updates on Board appointments
 - Continue sending recommendations
 - 5 Latinos have applied since July
 - 44 since 2020
- Will be proclaimed Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month
- Carmen asks about promoting these events
- More encouragement for promoting

Administration Update: Commonwealth (Kelly Thomasson) 10:30 AM

- Appointments
- Call to action on promoting Census, as the Census is set to end September 31.
- Board members are trusted members of our communities
- Importance of the census
- Census Update

Recap and discussion: Annual Report Submission (Paul Berry) 10:41 AM

Paul discussed process for developing the Annual Report to date. Noted deadline for submitting report.

Open discussion regarding the Annual Report

Carmen thanks Paul for his work on the report and for making it an easy process for the chairs.

Aida suggests having a full draft of the report for Board review

Paul noted the difficulty of the process under the current circumstances

Cecilia reiterated her thanks to Paul and the committee chairs for their work on the report. Has a few questions regarding the report. She was under the assumption the Board would vote on the final report

Traci says the Administration

Paul and Carmen discussed logistics of putting the report and recommendations together

Cecilia Barbosa had questions about the business recommendations

Annual Report Guidelines Discussion (Danielle Campbell) 10:15 AM

Danielle spoke about the timeline. Will work with appropriate staff to discuss recommendations.

Carmen Romero asked about the nature of the annual report and whether recommendations can be revisited. Danielle explains it may be okay to revisit items, especially in response to COVID.

Paul Berry clarifies there is no stipulation on the length of the report.

Melody Gonzales suggests that the report should speak to all the numerous issues that have arisen in the last few months. Says she would hate for someone to view the report and perceive that these are the only items the Board is focusing on.

Cecilia Barbosa suggests organizing the report around themes as opposed to committees

Joshua DeSilva asks how to connect with committee chairs

Administration Update: COVID-19 (Pam Kestner, DHCD) 11:01 AM

- Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program
- Governor's Priorities
 - Reducing Evictions Across the Commonwealth (Executive Order 25)
 - \$50 mil to keep individuals and families housing during the pandemic
 - Proposed \$3.3 million for a Prevention and Eviction Diversion Pilot Program
- RMRP
 - Support and ensure housing stability across the Commonwealth
 - Financial assistance provided to pay rent and mortgage costs on behalf of households experiencing housing instability due to the pandemic
 - DHCD is currently authorized to spend \$50 million to support the RMRP activities beginning April 1 until December 30, 2020
 - Basic eligibility requirements
 - Valid lease or mortgage statement
 - Loss of income due to the Coronavirus pandemic
 - Have a rent or mortgage amount at or below 150% FMR
 - Gross household income at or below 80% AMI based on current month's income
 - What it does
 - Pays 100% of the current months mortgage or rent (plus associated fees) and 100% of past due mortgage or rent from April 1 to present
 - Between June 29 and August 26, 2020
 - 4360 households have applied
 - 2,400 household rent payments (\$4 million)
 - Third party can work with households who may be fearful of requesting government assistance

Northam Administration: The Year Ahead (Traci DeShazor) 11:37 AM

- 14 months remaining in the Northam administration
- What is the focus for this final 14 months?
- Questions for consideration
 - What will your legacy be?
 - What will
 - How will you engage the community?
 - Remember your goals. Come back to the Code. Advise the Governor.
- Followed by a discussion of the Board
 - Karina comments that access is the word we should probably use and continue to use
 - Equity in terms of
 - How can we push ourselves to do more in the next year

Transportation Update Rob Cary 11:58 AM

- VDOT
- Focused on workforce being representative of the Commonwealth
- Met last week with Dr. Underwood
- Scholar program in which students work for VDOT during summers and breaks
- Guaranteed a job with VDOT after college, requires 6 months of work for every semester completed
- **Wounded Veteran Internships**

Policy Update: Special Session Report Out (Courtney Dozier) 12

- Looking toward the next regular General Assembly session
- Budget will be the highlight of next session
- The Governor will ask for a reforecast of the economic picture in November/December
- Figuring out what money is available given the current budget shortfall
- Asked GA to look at criminal justice and police reform opportunities
 - Marcus Alert
 - Police force training—no standardized statewide training
- Voting and elections
 - Return postage
 - Voter drop boxes
- Housing
 - Rent and Mortgage Relief
 - Housing Trust Fund

Committee Reports and Discussion: Looking Back (Traci DeShazor) 12:31 PM

Business (Manuel Leiva)

- **HB1150: Requires jail officials to report immigration status to ICE—limited only to felonies**
- Wage theft legislation—those who sue employers for back wages may now ask for attorney fees
- **Instituting paid sick leave**

Civic Engagement (Karina Klein-Gabel)

- Diversify Dept of Criminal Justice Committee
- Committee started leadership award a few years ago. Focusing on individuals on the frontline supporting our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Form will be on the website by Monday
- Encourage applications
- Set of videos highlighting who we are as members

Education and Workforce (Melody Gonzales)

- Evolving situation with the pandemic and community needs
- Additional workforce recommendations—time to push for a more diverse workforce (Aida)
- DEI Staff person at every agency, fund DEI efforts

Health (Cecilia Barbosa)

- Appreciates the ability to meet in committee
- Would like point person from departments assigned to committees
- What is the purpose of our website, and are we fully utilizing the website
- Has analyzed data on COVID and shared charts

Housing (Carmen Romero)

- Rent and Mortgage Relief
- Expanding landlord tenant law
- Housing Trust Fund

Administration Update: Health and Human Resources (Dr. Dan Carney) 1:01 PM

- COVIDWISE App
- Building trust in communities, testing events
- Once a vaccine is available, ensuring access to the vaccine among the Latino communities
- Acknowledge vulnerabilities for undocumented workers
- Paul states the current structures are not working for the Latino community

Closing remarks (Sec. Kelly Thomasson) 1:31 PM

Paul did not have any closing remarks.

Motion: Aida Pacheco motions to partner with the Administration to create a more purposeful, inclusive, and coordinated approach to planning for Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month. Joshua DeSilva Seconds.

No discussion.

Motion: Aida Pacheco motions to adjourn the meeting. Vivian Sanchez-Jones seconded.

Ayes: Paul Berry, Chair Y

Karina Kline-Gabel, Vice Chair

Alexander Guzmán, Secretary Y

Aida Pacheco Y

Carmen Romero

Cecilia Barbosa Y

Cecilia Williams

Diana Brown

Damien Cabezas

Edgar Aranda

Eduardo Zelaya Y

Diana Patterson Y

Gloria Peña Rockhold

Lyons Sanchezconcha Y

Juan Espinoza

Manuel E. Leiva Y

Melody Gonzales Y

Sergio Rimola Y

Joshua DeSilva Y

Walewska M. Watkins Y

Rodrigo Velasquez Y

13 ayes

Paul Berry, Karina Kline-Gabel, C. Alexander Guzmán, Cecilia Barbosa, Aida Pacheco, Gloria Maria Peña Rockhold, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Cecilia Williams, Sergio Rimola, Juan Espinoza, Carmen Romero, Melody Gonzales, Walewska Watkins

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion passes

Paul Motions to adjourn. Rodrigo

Meeting Adjourned 1:41 PM